

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-01 /086 W

----- 091099

R 161416Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5138

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS AMMAN 4841

NEA/ARN FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: AMMAN PRESS ON U.S. ARMS SALES TO JORDAN

REF: AMMAN 4679

1. JORDAN PRESS JULY 16 CONTINUED ITS DAILY ARTICLES ON MOVE BY "ZIONIST" MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO BLOCK ARMS SALE TO JORDAN (REFTEL). LOCAL GOJ-SPONSORED DAILY AR-RAYY, UNDER REUTERS TAG: "JONATHAN BINGHAM, THE LEADER OF THIS GROUP, ALLEGED THAT THE HUGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS TO BE PURCHASED WILL AFFECT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE MILITARY BALANCE OF POWER IN THE AREA. BINGHAM AND HIS COLLEAGUES CLAIM THAT THE SALE OF HAWK MISSILES, SHOULDER-FIRED ROCKETS, AND VULCAN GUNS WILL ENABLE JORDAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OFFENSIVE AGAINST ISRAEL BY GIVING JORDAN A DEFENSIVE UMBRELLA FOR HER SOLDIERS AND TANKS..."

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2. FIRST EDITORIAL ON SUBJECT IN JORDAN PRESS APPEARED

JULY 16 IN AR-RAYY: "FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS, ZIONIST GROUPS IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS HAVE BEEN PRESSING TO SUSPEND THE SALE...THIS MOVE WILL HAVE ONLY A LIMITED EFFECT, SINCE 1) THIS DEAL IS NOT A PART OF THE AMERICAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO JORDAN, AND THE ADMINISTRATION THEREFORE HAS THE RIGHT TO CONCLUDE IT AS A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT, AND 2) IT IS SIMPLY TOO LATE AT THIS POINT TO STOP THE DEAL. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THE MOVE BY ROSENTHAL'S GROUP IS NO MORE THAN A PERIPHERAL MANEUVER DESIGNED AS PART OF OTHER ATTEMPTS BY AMERICAN ZIONISM INTENDED TO PRESSURE THE ADMINISTRATION...IN HIS STATEMENT TO UNITED PRESS, KING HUSSEIN PROPOSED AN ALTERNATIVE FORMULA FOR RESOLVING THE AREA'S PROBLEMS: THAT OF GIVING THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION A CHANCE TO MAKE FURTHER INITIATIVES FOR PEACE...THE PROBLEM IS NOT A QUESTION OF PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL; RATHER, IT IS ONE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ACCORDING TO A SPECIFIC TIMETABLE..."

3. COMMENT: UP ARTICLE REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 IS JULY 15 WILLIAM HEARST/KINGSBURY SMITH INTERVIEW WITH KING, IN WHICH KING EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT AMERICA WAS PURSUING "A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY" IN MIDDLE EAST. HE ADDED, "I BELIEVE THE ONLY DRAWBACK IS THAT AMERICA IS NOT TALKING WITH ONE VOICE... (THE PRESIDENT) APPARENTLY HASN'T GOT SUFFICIENT SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE." KING FURTHER NOTED THAT "OUR FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE CAPABLE OF HELPING EVERYONE IN THIS AREA..., AND AMERICA IS THE ONLY POWER IN A POSITION TO HELP."

LINDER

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